In The Name Of Allah, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful

" Allah and His angels send Darood and Salutations on the Prophet (Peace be upon him). O you who believe! Send blessings on him and salute him worthy salutation."

~ The Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Ahzab: Verse 56 ~

Birth Celebration of the Holy Prophet

Muhammad ﷺ

~ In The Light Of The Islamic ~ Sources

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D E D I C A T I O N

(1) ***This book is dedicated to those* Scholars *and* Awliyaa of Islam *who committed their lives for the propagation of Islam***

(2) ***My Father, for the great inspiration he has given me to learn the Deen, Al-Islam & to work for its Da'wa:***

Hazrat Allama Maulana Al-Haaj Abu Al-Mahmood Nishter Sahib Chishti

~ Former Imam & Khatib of Jamia Masjid Hanafia, Bradford (UK) ~

~ Presently Imam at Jamia Masjid Madina, Cardiff, Wales (UK) ~

(3) My Third Dedication Goes to My Spiritual Teacher:

Hazrat Allama Maulana Sheikh Muhammad Nazim Adil Al-Haqqani Al-Naqshbandi Al-Qubrusi

~ The Present Master of the Naqshbandi Sufi Order ~

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

نحمدالله العلى العظيم و نصلى على رسوله الكريم

Firstly, I wish to praise and thank Allah the Almighty, for His Grace and Mercy on bestowing upon me the task of writing this book on ***Milad-Un-Nabi*** (**Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam – Peace be upon him**).

Additionally, without the Blessing **and "Nazr-e-Karam" of Our Master, Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him),** it would have been impossible for me to complete my work.

Last, but not least, I am most grateful to my Teacher and Father for the moral support he has extended to me during the course of writing the manuscript of the book.

I acknowledge the use of the books listed in the bibliography section as reference material. I wrote the original script of this book in autumn 1992. Due to study commitments and for other reasons, it was difficult for me to complete the work and to publish it immediately.

Later in 1994, I was most pleased to learn that my **Murshid's Khalifa, Shaikh Hisham M. Kabbani Al-Naqshbandi Al-Haqqani, wrote an invaluable book on Milad entitled** *'Innovation and True Belief: The Celkebration of Mawlid According to Qur'an & Sunnah and the Scholars of Islam'.* I recommend my readers to study this excellent book, which deals with the subject of Milad-un-Nabi (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam) in a scholarly manner.

CONTENTS

PREFACE

REGARDING THE BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam), ALLAMA HAFIZ SHARF-UDDEEN ABI ABDULLAH AL-BUSAIRI r.a. [died 7th March, 1213 A.D.] SAYS IN HIS 'QASIDAH BURDAH' SHARIF: "His ﷺ place of birth received a fragrance issuing from his holy self. How pure and fragrant are the places of his appearance and his end (i.e. Mecca, the place of his birth and Medina, the site of his tomb!)."

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The **HOLY PROPHET HAZRAT MUHAMMAD** ﷺ**,** may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, the *Seal of Prophets* (Khaatam An-Nabiyyeen), *Prophet of Allah* (Rasoolullah), the *Beloved of Allah* (Mahboob-Allah), *Mercy unto the Worlds* (Rahmatullil-Alameen), the *Pride of the World* (Fakhri-Alam), the *Best of Creation* (Ashraful-Makhlooqaat), the *Perfect Model for Mankind* (Uswa-e-Hasanah), blessed the world with his birth on the 12th of Rabi Al-Awwal in the Year of the Elephant (Islamic Calendar), according to the Christian calendar, on 20th April 571 A.D. On this auspicious occasion, Muslims all over the world celebrate the **MILAD-UN-NABI** (Sallalahu alaihi wa sallam - peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the birthday celebration of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam), also known as ***'Mawlud Un-Nabi'*** and ***'Mawlid Un-Nabi'*** in the Arabic language. This is one of the happiest days of the Muslim calendar. *Some people do not celebrate the Milad Shareef and condemn those Muslims who commemorate this occasion. They allege that it is a 'Bid'ah' (an innovation, new thing) and regard it as being outside the fold of Islam, without knowledge and experience, which is completely false and wrong.*

On the contrary, celebrating the Milad of the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him is permitted in Islam, according to the authentic references of the Holy Qur'an, the Sunnah, the Shariah, and the practise and books of the Scholars of Islam. **The aim of writing this book is to shed some light on the permissibility of celebrating Milad with evidences from the Qur'an, Sunnah and the Muslim Scholars;** to confront and diffuse the illogic, unfounded and dirty allegations of those people, who say that celebrating Milad is *'Shirk'* (associating partners to Allah) and a *Bid'ah*; to answer matters of ***'Wasilah' (intercession)*** relating to the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him; and ***'References in the Scriptures of Major Religions abut the Advent of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him'.*** This is not meant to be an exhaustive study of the subject.

I request all my readers to study the subject of Milad carefully with an open mind and to analyse the truth written in the book, and to finally come to the unanimous conclusion that belief and practise of Milad is an integral part of a Muslim's ***'Iman' (faith, belief).*** If a Muslim or a non-Muslim does not believe and respect the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him, then that person will not get his ***'Shafa'at'*** or ***'Wasilah' (intercession)*** on the Day of Judgement. *May Allah shower us with His Mercy and Blessings and inculcate a profound love and respect for Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, his Family and his Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, Ameen!*
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5th May 2008 - Cardiff, Wales. U.K.

PART ONE: THE SOURCES OF ISLAM

1. THE SOURCES OR FOUNDATIONS OF ISLAM

What is Islam?

Of the monotheistic religions including Judaism and Christianity, ***Islam*** is the final and complete message of guidance from ***Allah*** (God), the Master and Creator of the universe, to mankind, with the ***Holy Qur'an*** being the culmination of divinely revealed scriptures. The word Islam means complete submission to the Will and Pleasure of Allah the Almighty. A ***Muslim*** is one who has submitted, resigned or surrendered him/herself to Allah's commands or divine laws. Islam is not a new religion, as some people may assume so and it is as old as mankind. Islam began with the Father of human beings, the First Prophet of Allah, ***Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him).*** This message proclaimed the belief in the ***Oneness ('Tawhid')*** of God, that there is none to be worshipped except Allah. All the Prophets such as Noah, Abraham, Solomon, David, Jesus, and the Last Messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all), propagated the same teachings of Tawhid to their respective nations.

Islam is more than a religion: it is a ***'Deen'***, a ***Complete Code of Life*** encompassing all spheres of human activities, whether political, legal, social, economic, cultural, technological, and so forth. The Holy Qur'an and Islam shall remain until the end of time with the protection of Allah the Most High, Insha-Allah (God willing).

The Sources of Islam

Islam is based upon on four ***Sources ('Usool')*** or the ***Foundations ('Arkan').*** The Muslim Scholars also refer to the sources of Islam as the ***'Shariah'.*** The four sources of the Sharia'h are as follows:

1. **The Holy Qur'an.**
2. **The Sunnah.**
3. **The Ijma'.**
4. **The Qiyas.**

Abdur Rahman I. Doi (1984) defines Shariah in his book ***Shari'ah, The Islamic Law*** as: *"the path to be followed",* literally meaning *"the way to a watering place".* According to Doi, Shariah is the path that not only leads to Allah, but also the path believed by Muslims to be the way shown by Allah through His Messenger, Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him.

It is appropriate to mention here that the ***interpretation of matters***, or ***'Masaail'***, relating to the four Usool of Islam, is known as ***'Ilm Al-Usool'*** (dogmatics)***, 'Fann Usool Al-Din'*** (principles of theology), and ***'Fan Usool Al-Fiqh'*** (principles of jurisprudence or Fiqh). The persons who are qualified enough to interpret the

Sharia'h are the scholars **'Ulama'** (pl. of Alim) and jurists known as **'Fuqaha'** (pl. of Faqih).

The Holy Qur'an

The primary source of Sharia'h is the ***Holy Qur'an***. The Qur'an is the divinely inspired Word of God, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him by the Angel Gabriel over a period of twenty-three years. The Holy Qur'an being the ultimate and the Last Divine Book, is a Comprehensive Book of Guidance that illuminates the path of those people who strive to search for truth, direction, knowledge, and human perfection in their material and spiritual lives. It is the greatest miracle of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, and Allah has given His protection to the Qur'an so that it will perpetuate eternally. Because it has survived the passage of time to this day in its original form without any change, distortion or corruption whatsoever. If one compares various copies of the Qur'an from different regions of the world, it will be seen that the original Arabic script is exactly identical to the minutest points, with the exception of the variations in linguistic translations.

The ***Qur'an*** is a ***unique Divine Book*** that expounds clearly on ***modern scientific principles*** that were only discovered recently; whereas Allah revealed verses in His Book fourteen hundred years ago, on the creation of the universe and mankind, human fertilisation, the hidden secrets of the celestial and subterranean worlds, etc. Therefore, the Holy Quran is a book that is a complete guidance for all creation including mankind, the angels, and the good and evil spirits.

The Sunnah

The second source of Shari'ah is the ***Sunnah*** of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. Sunnah means the way, path, behaviour, customs, and also includes the ***Hadith*** – traditions and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, his Family (*Ahl-e-Bait*), and his Companions (*As'haab*) – may Allah be pleased with them all. After the Holy Qur'an, Muslims have the Hadith, the Collection of Traditions which consist of the Six Books of Authentic Hadith (*Siha Sitta*): ***Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood, Tirmizi, Nisai, Ibn Majah,*** amongst other minor compilations of traditions. The Sunnah is regarded by Muslims to be the ideal and perfect way of living according to the Islamic way of life.

Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said: *"I leave two things for you. You will never go astray while holding them firmly. The Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet."*

This Hadith shows that you cannot be misguided from the Divine Path if you abide by the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah.

The Ijma’

The ***Ijma’*** is the third source of Sharia’h. Ijma’ is the ***agreement*** or ***consensus*** of the scholars of Islam, the ***Mujtahideen*** and ***Fuqaha*** in matters relating to jurisprudence and theology, using interpretations of the Holy Qur’an and the Hadith, according to the ***Four Theological Schools in Islam: Hanafi, Shafi’i, Maliki and Hanabali***. These scholars use their intellect to discern complex matters and arrive at a logical conclusion that benefits the Muslim Ummah (nation/community) in a simple and practicable manner.

The Qiyas

The ***Qiyas*** is the fourth source of Shari’ah. Qiyas literally means the ***measuring, analysis*** or ***comparison*** of matters in religion. This analogy of complex issues is made by the learned scholars of Islam, the Mujtahideen, who compare questions of law with cases of precedent previously decided on the authority of the Holy Qur’an, the Sunna and Ijma’, by using their ***Ijtihad*** or reasoning.

In this picture it is written in order on the Seal: “Allah, Rasool, Muhammad”: The Seal of Allah's Messenger Peace be upon him - Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him used to impress his seal at the end of his letters

PART TWO: REFERENCES ABOUT MILAD SHAREEF IN THE HOLY QUR'AN

The following authorities validate the celebration of Milad Shareef. There are innumerable verses in the Holy Qur'an, the traditions of the Sunnah, and the sayings and actual practices of Milad by the ***Prophet Muhammad*** peace be upon him, the ***Ahl-e-Bait*** (the Family of the Prophet peace be upon him), the ***Sahaba-e-Kiram*** (Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him – may Allah be pleased with them all), the ***Tabi'een*** (those Muslims who had not seen the Prophet peace be upon him, but saw the Companions), and ***Tab'a Tabi'een*** (those Muslims who had seen neither the Prophet peace be upon him nor the Companions, but saw the Tabi'een), and the ***Scholars of Islam and the Muslim Ummah*** until now.

In this section, the Author wishes to present only a few of the evidences regarding the permissibility of Milad Shareef from the Holy Qur'an, Sunnah, and the Ijma' of the scholars of Islam, so that readers can easily comprehend the matters discussed in this book, instead of amassing too many details and going astray from the main points of deliberation.

1. "We did not send you except as a mercy to human beings." (Surah Al-Anbiya - Verse 107)

Allah sent the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him to the world as a ***Mercy*** to mankind and all of creation – ***"Rahmatullil-'Aalameen"***. He was a Mercy to all whether friends or foe and even forgave his enemies. Therefore, it is obligatory for us to rejoice his birth and life and talk about his beautiful attributes and share our knowledge of the Prophet peace be upon him with fellow Muslims and in particular, with non-Muslims and all of humanity.

2. "Of the Favour and Mercy of Allah let them rejoice". (Surah Yunus - Verse 58)

The sending of Rasoolullah, Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him is a great Bounty, Favour and Mercy of Allah upon all mankind. When we celebrate Milad, we are rejoicing and our hearts express gratitude for the Mercy of Allah, that being Rasoolullah peace be upon him, Islam and the Holy Qur'an.

3. "Allah and His Angels send Darood and Salutations on the Prophet (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam). 0 you who believe! Send blessings on him and salute him worthy salutation." (Surah Al-Ahzab -Verse 56)

Allah the Almighty commands us in the Holy Qur'an to send greetings and blessings on the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him as an obligatory duty. This can be done in a gathering or privately. No Muslim can deny or go against this order of

Allah. There are many virtues of sending the Darood (salutations) on the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him.

4. "Truly you are of a magnificent character."
(Surah Al-Qalam - Verse 4)

Rasoolullah peace be upon him is the best of all creation and of all human beings. Allah has declared that His Prophet peace be upon him possesses the most noblest and beautiful character - a perfect model and an exemplar to be followed by mankind.

5. "Say to them: If you love Allah, follow (and love and honour) me, and Allah will love you."
(Surah Ale-Imran - Verse 31)

Those people, who claim that they love Allah and the Prophet peace be upon him, should follow the Prophet peace be upon him in every manner to the minutest details according to his Sunnah, and express their love for him. Then Allah will love these people in return.

"O Muhammad (Peace be upon you),
Unlimited blessings of Allah are upon you" [Qur'anic Verse]

The Green Dome of the Masjid-e-Nabawi ﷺ

PART THREE: REFERENCES ABOUT MILAD SHAREEF IN THE AHADITH

1. Hadith Narrated by AD-DAILAMI and Quoted in KANZ AL-DAQAIQ

This Hadith states, *"The one who loves very much remembers the beloved very frequently."* All the Ulama of Islam have written in detail that it is necessary to love Rasoolullah peace be upon him very much. Hence, if we do not love the Prophet peace be upon him, then we cannot have Iman/faith, and nor the Islamic faith. Those who claim to love the Prophet peace be upon him are people who not only deceive others but also themselves. May Allah guide them.

2. The Hadith - Loving the Prophet Peace be upon him More Than One's Family & Others

The Messenger of Allah peace be upon him once said, *"One's Iman (belief) is incomplete unless he loves me more than his children, his parents and everyone."*

The Messenger of Allah, Rasoolullah peace be upon him, meant that one's Iman is not perfect and complete until he/she loves him more than his/her family and everyone else. Therefore, it is compulsory for him who loves Allah, to also love his Prophet peace be upon him. And he also has to love Allah's pious servants (the 'Awliyaa Allah' - savants/saints).

3. Hadith Narrated by IMAM ABDUR-RAZZAQ (r.a.) From HAZRAT JABIR BIN ABDULLAH ANSARI (r.a.)

Imam Abdur-Razzaq (r.a., Rahmatullahi Alaihi, May Allah have mercy on his soul) has narrated on the authority of **Hazrat Jabir Bin Abdullah Ansari (r.a., Radi Allahu Anhu, may Allah be pleased with him)** that: *"I said to the Prophet peace be upon him that may my parents be sacrificed for you, tell me, what did Allah create before anything else?" The Prophet peace be upon him replied: "O Jabir! First of all, Allah Ta'ala created your Prophet's Light from His own Light before anything else. Then, that Light with the Power of Providence travelled wherever Allah willed. At this time there was no Loh, no Pen, no Heaven and no Hell, no angels, no sky, no earth, nor was there the sun and the moon, no genie, no human, then, Allah wished to bring about creation. That Light was split into four parts: out of one part the Pen was created, out of the second the Loh, out of the third the Arsh was created, then all of creation was brought into existence from the conjunction of that Light."*

4. Hadith Narrated by IMAM QASTALANI (r.a.)

Imam Qastalani (r.a.) has narrated that*: "Allah Ta'ala commanded the Light of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to concentrate on the Lights of the Prophets. Therefore, the Prophet peace be upon him's Light concentrated on the Souls and Lights of the rest of the Prophets, so that Light covered all those Lights. The Prophets peace be upon them said: "Our Lord, who has covered us?" Then Allah the Almighty said: "This is the Light of Muhammad peace be upon him. If you believe in him you will be honoured with prophethood." On this, all the souls of the Prophets said that we believe in him."*

5. Hadith Narrated by HAZRAT ABU HURAIRAH (r.a.)

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (r.a.) has narrated that the *Sahabah* asked: "O Rasoolullah peace be upon you! When did your prophethood commence?" The Prophet peace be upon him said: "From that time when Adam peace be upon him was yet between soul and body, that is, when there was no life in his body." **Imam Tirmizi** has narrated this Hadith to be *'Hasn'* (sound, fair).

6. Hadith narrated by IMAM IBN AL-QATTAN (r.a.)

Imam Ibn Al-Qattan (r.a.) has narrated in his book 'Ahkaam', from Imam Zain Al-Abideen (r.a.), that Imam Zain Al-Abideen (r.a.) has taken from his father Imam Husain (r.a.) and his Grandfather Hazrat Ali (r.a.), that the Prophet peace be upon him said that he was a Light present before Allah fourteen thousand years before the creation of Hazrat Adam peace be upon him.

PART FOUR: MILAD AN-NABI Sallalahu alaihi wa sallam IN THE OPINIONS OF MUSLIM SCHOLARS

1. **The Author has translated the following text about MILAD-UN-NABI Sallalahu alaihi wa sallam from the book *‘IZA JAA AL-HAQ',* (Urdu language, 1957) by the late HAKIM-UL-UMMAT, ALLAMA MUFTI AHMAD YAR KHAN NAEEMI (r.a.), of Pakistan:**

"When we celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's peace be upon him birthday on an individual basis or as a gathering, we recount his genealogy, his life from his holy birth to adulthood, his miracles (the greatest being the Holy Qur'an), and read poetry and praise in his memory. Whether you recount the Holy Seerah (life) or read poetry or the praise of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him standing, sitting, in privacy or in a gathering, however you do so, it is called 'Milad Shareef' [respected birthday celebration]. Organising a birthday celebration assembly, expressing joy and happiness and joy on of this celebration, applying perfume to oneself, sprinkling rose petals, distributing sweets, so long as everything is done in a permitted way, then it is approved of unanimously. And Allah showers His Blessings and Mercy upon those people who celebrate the Milad.

Prophet Isa/Jesus peace be upon him once prayed to Allah saying in the company of his disciples (**Holy Qur'an 6; 4**): ***"O Allah! Send down from the sky a Table laden (laden with food) so that it may bring happiness for those who are yet to come, as a sign from You; and give us food as You are the Best Provider."*** From this verse of the Qur'an, you can see that Hazrat Isa peace be upon him celebrated Milad. Even nowadays Christians celebrate this event on Sundays, since Allah sent down the heavenly table laden with food on that particular day. And the coming of Hazrat Isa peace be upon him is somewhat more of a blessing for them than the table; therefore they also celebrate his birthday.

It is a grave sin to do Haraam (forbidden) things in a Milad sitting, such as the reading of Naat (praise) loudly by women so that a stranger can hear it. And it is strongly prohibited (because a woman should guard her voice as well as her chastity from strange men – Hijab: covering, veiling of her voice and body). Similarly, the playing of a trumpet or some other musical instrument is a sin because these are tools of leisure, whereas recitation of poetry and Naat is worship.

(i) **Milad Shareef is proven by the Holy Qur'an, Hadith sayings and traditions of the Prophet peace be upon him and his Companions, the sayings of the scholars of Islam, and by the actions of angels and the Prophets peace be upon them all.** Allah says in the Qur'an: “***And remember Allah's rewards to you.”***

The coming of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him is a great reward from the Almighty, therefore celebrating Milad is an action based on this verse.

(ii) **The book called 'Mudarij Un-Nabuwwah' states that all the Prophets foretold their nations about the advent of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him.** The Qur'an mentions the saying of Hazrat Isa peace be upon him: ***"I am about to tell you about a Prophet who will come after me. His holy name is AHMAD."***

(iii) **Allah declares in His Book: *"Celebrate happiness splendidly with the Grace and Mercy of Allah."*** From this verse it is understood that celebration on Allah's Grace is a Divine Order and that the Prophet peace be upon him is his Lord's Grace and Mercy.

(iv) **The Prophet peace be upon him stood at his pulpit in front of the assembly of his Sahabah and told them about his birth and his personal qualities.** From this you know that Milad is a practice of the Prophet peace be upon him.

(v) **The Companions used to ask each other to read *'Eulogies/Naat'* (e.g. Hazrat Hassan Ibn Thabit (r.a.) read Naat in front of the Prophet peace be upon him and the Sahabah).** Therefore, it is firmly established that Milad is also a practice of the Companions of the Holy Prophet peace be upon him.

(vi) In **'TAFSIR ROOH AL-BAYAN',** chapter number 26, under the section 'Muhammad-ur-Rasoolullah', it is written: -

"Doing Milad is a mark of respect of the Prophet peace be upon him, so long as it is empty of bad things. **IMAM SUYUTHI** (r.a.) said: *"It is likeable for us to express our thanks on the Prophet peace be upon him's birth."* **IMAM IBN HAJR HAITMI (r.a.)** said: *"Everyone is united on the likeability of a beautiful innovation (bid'a hasanah)."* **IMAM IBN JOZI (r.a.)** said: *"The effect of Milad's blessing is that as a result of it, peace remains for a whole year long and there is a delight in it when fulfilling one's wishes. And* **IBN WAHYAH** *has written a book about Milad, in which the king honoured him with a thousand tributes. And* **HAFIZ IBN HAJAR (r.a.)** *and* **HAFIZ SUYUTHI (r.a.)** *have proved its real practice (i.e. Milad) and have opposed those who prohibit and call it 'Bid'at Sayyi'ah' (a bad innovation)."* "

2. SHAIKH IBN TAYMIYYA'S (r.a.) JUDICIAL RULING/FATWA ON THE CELEBRATION OF MILAD

Shaikh Ibn Taymiyya's (d. 728 H. - r.a.) opinion on the celebration of Milad is written in ***'Majma Fatawa Ibn Taymiyya'***, Volume 23, page 163, as follows:

"To celebrate and to honour the birth of the Prophet peace be upon him and to take it as an honoured season, as some of the people are doing, is good and in it there is a great reward, because of their good intentions in honouring the Prophet peace be upon him. "

Shaikh Ibn Taymiyya's (r.a.) comments about meetings of ***Zikr*** (Remembrance of Allah) are written in his book 'Majma Fatawa Ibn Taymiyya', Volume 22, page 523, of the King Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz edition:

'Ibn Taymiyya was asked about people that gather in a Masjid making Zikr and reading the Qur'an, praying to Allah and taking their turbans off their heads (leaving their heads bare) and crying, while their intention is not pride nor showing off but seeking to draw closer to Allah: is it acceptable or not? He answered: "Praise be to Allah! It is Good and Recommended (Mustahab) according to Shariah to come together for reading the Qur'an, making Zikr, and making Dua (prayer)." '

2. IMAM SUYUTHI'S OPINIONS ON MAWLID

Imam Suyuthi (d. 911 H. - r.a.) writes in his book 'Husn Al-Maqsid Fi A'maal Al-Mawlid', page 54 and 62: *"The reason for gathering for Tarawih prayers is Sunnah and Qurba (to seek closeness to Allah)...And similarly we say that the reason for gathering to Qcelebrate Mawlid is Mandoob (recommended) and Qurba...and the intention to celebrate Mawlid is Mustahsanah (praiseworthy) without a doubt."*

3. ALLAMA ZAHEER UDDIN IBN JAFAR'S VIEWS ON MILAD

Allama Zaheer Uddin Ibn Jafar (r.a.) said: *"Meeting for a Mawlid is a Bid'ah Hasanah (good innovation). It is always Meritorious (Thawab) to assemble the pious, to say Salawaat (sending salutations on the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him) and to give food to the poor. Yet it is a great sin to introduce any Haraam, musical instrument, singing or dancing into such meetings."*

4. ALLAMA HAFIZ IBN NASIR-UDDIN'S VIEWS ON MILAD SHAREEF

Allama Hafiz Ibn Nasir-Uddin Damishqi (d. 842 H. - r.a.) said: *"... it is very meritorious to give alms or presents, to show joy and happiness, to get the Mawlid eulogy recited where male and female Muslims are not gathered together and to attend such a meeting. However, one should not ask for anything from anybody unless there is Zarura (compulsion). It is Haraam to do so if there is no Zarura. It is an Iibada for the pious to congregate and to say the Zikr of Allah the Most High and Salawaat. It is very meritorious."*

5. THE SCHOLAR OF HADITH HAFIZ SHAMS UD-DIN MUHAMMAD AL-SAHAWI

Muhammad Ibn Yusuf Al-Shami (r.a), who passed away in Egypt in 1536 AD, writes in his book 'Al-Sirat Ash-Shami': 'Hafiz Shams Ud-Din Muhammad As-Sahawi [died in Medina, Arabia, 1496 A.D.] said, "On [assembling for] a Mawlid, there is no report from the Salaf (the distinguished ones among the Tabi'un -successors of the Sahaba). It appeared after the third century. Every year Muslims give alms and rejoice on the mawlid night. They do charitable and pious deeds. They congregate and listen to the mawlid eulogy recited."'

THE FOLLOWING MUSLIM SCHOLARS (May Allah have mercy on their souls) HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT MILAD SHAREEF AND HAVE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT IT IS PERMITTED BY ISLAMIC LAW (SHARIAH):

- **Shaikh Ibn Taymiyya (r.a. - d.728 H.)** - 'Iqtiza As-Siraat Al-Mustaqeem', Pages 294 & 297.

- **Allama Muhammad Al-Juzri Damishqi (r.a. – d.833 H.)** - 'Zarqani Alal-Muwahib', Volume 1, Page139.

- **Allama Imam Hafiz Ibni Hajar Asqalani (r.a. – d.852 H.)** - 'Fath-hul Bari', Volume 6, Page 118.

- **Allama Imam Badr-Uddin Aini Hanafi (r.a. – d.855 H.)** - 'Umdat Al-Qari Sharah Bukhari', Volume 2 Page 95.

- **Allama Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Al-Qastalani (r.a. d.923 H.)** - 'Mawahib Al-Ladunyah'.
- **Imam Ali Bin Sultan, Al-Ma'roof Mulla Ali Qari (r.a. – d.1016 H.)** - 'Mirqaat Sharah Mishkaat'; Jam'ul Wasail Fi Sharh Al-Shamail'; and 'Az-Zubdat Al-Umdah Fi Sharh Al-Burdah'.

- **Imam Rabbani Mujaddid Alf-e-Thani, Shaikh Ahmad Farooqi Sirhindi (r.a. – d.1034 H.)** - 'Maktoobaat'.

- **Allama Ali Bin Burhan Uddin Halbi (r.a. – d.1044 H.)** - 'Insab Al-'Uyoon Al-Ma'roof Baseerat Halbiyyah'.

- **Allama Shah Abdul Haq Muhaddith Dehlvi (r.a. – d.1052 H.)** - 'Mudarij An-Nabuwwah'.

- **Allama Ismail Haqqi (r.a. – d.1137 H.)** - 'Tafsir Rooh Al-Bayan' (in the section 'Muhammadur-Rasoolullah (Sallalahu alaihi wa sallam)', Volume 5, Page 661).

- **Hadhrat Shah Wali Ullah Muhaddith Dehlvi (r.a. – d.1176 H.)** - 'Fuzul Haramain' and 'Waraathmeen'.

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- **Maulana Abdul Hai Lukhnawi (r.a. d.1304 H)** - 'Fatawa Abdul Hai', Volume 2, Page 283.

- **A'la Hadhrat Imam Ahl As-Sunnah Mujaddid Deen Wa Millat Allama Maulana Shah Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilwi (r.a. d.1340 H.)** - 'Iqamah Al-Qiyamah'.

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- **Allama Usman Bin Hasan Muhaddith Wamyathi** - 'Asbath-e-Qayaam'.

- **Allama Mufti Jamal Bin Abdullah Bin Umar Makki Hanafi** - 'Fatawa'.

Alhamdulillah! There are many writings of Muslim scholars that narrate the holy birth of Rasoolullah Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him. It is sufficient to quote the above references to prove that celebrating Milad is a good thing and a practice of the As'hab and the Ulama.

<u>PART FIVE: WASILA (INTERCESSION) OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ</u>

Intercession

The words ***Wasila, Shafa'a,*** and ***Tawassul*** all mean ***intercession*** (a cause or intermediatory). Allah says in the 32nd Verse (Ayat) of **Surah Al-Maida,** ***"Look for a Wasilah to attain Him",*** and in the 38th Ayat: ***"Oh Believers! Fear Allah! Seek for a means to approach Him!"*** Another Ayat in **Surah Al-Isra,** Verse 57 states: ***"There are those who pray and perform Ibada. They seek a means, a cause, to approach their Rabb (Lord). They want the cause that will take them closest to Allah."***
All kinds of worships (Ibadaat) such as Zikr, Dua (prayers) and the Arwah (souls; sing. 'Ruh') of the Awliyaa (saints) are included in this order of Allah. The fact that the Wasila is Rasoolullah (s.a.w.) is clear in the 31st Verse of ***Surah Ale Imran: "If you love Allahu Ta'ala, adapt yourselves to me! Allahu Ta'ala loves those who adapt themselves to me."***

Everyone who says that he/she is a Muslim should believe this Ayat. The Hadith, ***"Ulama are the inheritors of the Prophets,"*** shows that the Awliyaa are Wasila, too. The Ahadith state categorically and also the Ulama declare that it is ***'Jaiz'/permissible*** to go to the graves of Prophets peace be upon them all and Awliyaa, to ask Allah for something through their mediation and to ask them to intercede for us on the Day of Judgement.

Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him Celebrating His Own Birth

The Prophet peace be upon him himself used to give a feast to his As'hab on the Mawlid nights and narrate the events that had happened, when he honoured the world with his birth and during his childhood. Rasoolullah peace be upon him once slaughtered an *'Aqiqa* for himself after being informed of his prophethood, although he knew that his Grandfather, Hazrat Abdul Muttalib had slaughtered an 'Aqiqa for him on the seventh day of his birth. Hazrat Abu Bakr may Allah be pleased with him, when he was the Caliph, he used to call the Companions to assemble on the Mawlid nights, and they used to talk about the miraculous events that happened when Rasoolullah peace be upon him was born.

Muslims all over the world read books about the **Seerah (Life)** of Rasoolullah peace be upon him, feel happy and celebrate that honourable night on which he honoured the world as he and the Sahabah did on that night. All creatures, angels, genies, animals and non-living matter feel happy and give one another the good news of the arrival of this night on which Rasoolullah peace be upon him was born. **Maulana Jalal Ud-Din Rumi (r.a.)** said that the places where a ***Mawlid eulogy*** was read would be safe from disasters and difficulties. Subhan-Allah (Praise be to Allah)!

<u>Muwajeh Sharif</u> **(Golden Grill) in the Masjid-e-Nabawi**

Behind this grill, from left to right is the Mazar-e-Mubarak of the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him, then the first Caliph of Islam, Ameer-ul-Mu'mineen Hazrat Abu Bakr's Mazar, and after that is the Mazar of the second Caliph of Islam, Ameer-ul-Mu'mineen, Hazrat Umar Farooq - may Allah be pleased with them

HADITH REFERENCES ABOUT RASOOLULLAH'S peace be upon him INTERCESSION

(i) **Hadith conveyed by Ibn Huzaima, Al-Bazzar, Ad-Daraqutni** and **Tabarabi** (Rahimahumullahu anhum, may Allah have mercy upon them): *"It has become Wajib (compulsory) upon me to intercede for those who visit my shrine."*

(ii) **The Hadith Shareef reported by Al-Bazzar***: "It became Halaal for me to intercede for those who visit my shrine."*

(iii) **The Hadith in the Sahih of Muslim,** which is also quoted in **Abu Bakr Ibn Al-Makkari's (r.a) book MU'JAMA says:** *"If someone visits me and without any other intentions, he deserves my intercession for him on the Last Judgement." This Hadith foretold that Rasoolullah peace be upon him would intercede for those who go to the Holy City of Medina to visit him."*

(iv) **The Hadith reported by Imam Tabarani, Imam Daraqutni and other Imams of Hadith (r.a.) says:** *"He who visits my grave after carrying out the Hajj will be considered to have visited me during my lifetime." Another Hadith reported by Daraqutni says: "The one who does not visit me after carrying out the Hajj will hurt me."*

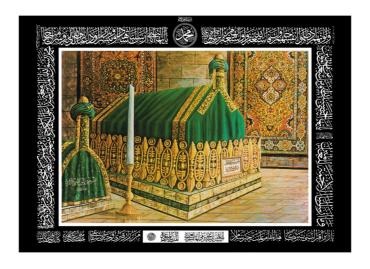
(v) **The Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari (r.a.) says:** *"When a person greets me, Allahu Ta'ala gives my soul back to my body. I reply to his greeting." Based on this Hadith, Imam Bukhari said, "Prophets are alive in their graves."*

The Prophet's peace be upon him blessed soul being given back means that from his high position he answers the person who greets him with Durood. This is why Muslims all over the world over send greetings and salutations to the Prophet peace be upon him in the form of ***Salawaat***, which is read individually or in a gathering.

(vi) **The Hadith reported by Abu Bakr Ibn Shaiba (r.a.) says:** *"I will hear the Salawaat recited at my shrine. I will be informed about the Salawaat recited at a distance."*

(vii) **Allama Ibn Qayyim's (r.a.) opinion about the importance of the Prophet peace be upon him to human beings in his book ZAAD AL-MA'AD.** *"It must be known that the greatest goodness and the greatest favour from Allah is the very existence of the person of Prophet Muhammad* peace be upon him*, because he is the Greatest Prophet, the Mercy for all human beings, the Seal of the Prophets, and the Intercessor of sinners. And Allah has spoken about the High Honour (Shaan) of the Prophet peace be upon him, and has granted the believers a great favour by sending him from among themselves...It is confirmed that the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him is the greatest means and intermediary to Allah in this life and the next."*

There are many Ahadith which clearly state that Rasoolullah peace be upon him is indeed the ***Shafi'/Intercessor*** for all mankind and creation. If one (whether he/she is a Muslim or not) does not believe in, respect and love Rasoolullah more than one's family, relatives and property, then that person will not attain salvation and intercession at all in their worldly life and in the hereafter. One shows his/her love for Rasoolullah peace be upon him by emulating him, applying his Sunnah, following his words and deeds, obeying his commands and taking on his Adaab (etiquette's) in ease, hardship, joy and despair. Allah testifies to that: ***"Say: If you love Allah, then follow me and Allah will love you."*** **(3;31)**

May Allah guide us all onto the Straight Path, so that we live according to the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of our Holy Prophet, Hadhrat Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his Family and his Companions. Ameen!

The Holy Grave of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in the Masjid-e-Nabawi

PART SIX: REFERENCES FROM THE SCRIPTURES OF MAJOR RELIGIONS ABOUT THE COMING OF HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

1. PROPHECIES IN THE GOSPEL OF SAINT BARNABAS

Saint Barnabas, whose real name was Joses, Barnabas literally means "Son of Consolation" (in Arabic "Barnaabas") was a ***Hawari*** (disciple) of **Prophet Jesus (Isa, peace be upon him),** and spent the latter part of his life with his master. He was a devout monotheist and believed in Allah. Barnabas recorded the true life and teachings of his master Hazrat Isa peace be upon him and never added anything to his record, nor did he omit anything from it. In 478 AD, when the remains of Barnabas were discovered the original Gospel was found on his chest.

It must be said with a profound regret that the Christians and Churches all over the world have banned the reading of the Gospel of Barnabas. The Gospel of Barnabas, including many other books and gospels were accepted by the Early Church. Later, the Council of Nicea met in 325 AD to decide which books and gospels ought to be banned. The Gospel of Barnabas was amongst those books that were banned. The Christendom of today regard the Gospel as a fabrication and it is prohibited to read and speak about it in the church. Because it contains the true teachings of Prophet Jesus peace be upon him, the contents of it are compatible with Islamic teachings and beliefs, and it also mentions the Holy Names of 'Muhammad' and 'Ahmad', which is a title of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. Due to this conspiracy on the part of Christendom, very few people are aware of the Gospel and most are deprived of the many true teachings of Jesus peace be upon him, which provide guidance and salvation for everyone. Those who have read it have attained spiritual and religious benefits and found themselves to be on the Straight Path.

The **Holy Name** of **HAZRAT MUHAMMAD MUSTAFA** (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam) is mentioned in different parts of the Gospel, but we wish to concentrate on only two quotations, which refer to the birth and the coming of Rasoolullah, Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him. **Section 39 of the Gospel** says the following, which occurs after the **Creation of Prophet Adam peace be upon him**, the Father of Mankind:

'...***Adam,*** *having sprung upon his feet, saw in the air a writing that shone like the sun, which said:* ***"There is only one God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God."*** *Whereupon Adam opened his mouth and said: "I thank Thee, O Lord my God, that Thou hast deigned to create me; but tell me, I pray, what meaneth the message of*

these words: "Muhammad is the Messenger of God." Have there been other men before me?"

'Then said God: "Be thou welcome, O my servant Adam. I tell thee that thou art the first man whom I created. And he whom thou hast seen [mentioned] is thy son, who shall come into the world many years to hence, and shall be my Messenger, for whom I created all things; who shall give light to the world when he shall come; whose soul was set in a celestial splendour sixty thousand years before I made everything."

'Adam besought God, saying: "Lord, grant me this writing upon the nails of the fingers of my hands." *Then God gave to the first man upon his thumbs that writing; upon the thumb-nail of the right hand it said:* ***"There is no God, " and upon the thumb-nail of the left hand it said: "Muhammad is the Messenger of God."*** *Then with fatherly affection the first man kissed those words, and rubbed his eyes, and said:* ***"Blessed be that day when thou shalt come to the world..."***

In ***Section 97 of the Gospel,*** it is written:

*'...**Jesus** answered: 'the name of the Messiah is admirable, for God Himself gave him the name when He created his soul, and placed it in a celestial splendour. God said:* ***"Wait Muhammad; for thy sake I will create Paradise, the world, and a great multitude of creatures, whereof I make thee a present, insomuch that whoso shall bless thee shall be blessed, and whoso shall curse thee shall be accursed. When I shall send thee as My Messenger of salvation, and thy word shall be true, insomuch that heaven and earth shall fail, but thy faith shall never fail." Muhammad is his blessed name.' Then the crowd lifted up their voices, saying: "O God, send us Thy Messenger; O Muhammad, come quickly for the salvation of the world!"'***

The above quotations from the Gospel of Saint Barnabas fully legitimise the celebration of Milad Shareef independently as a book of non-Muslim. Muslims believe that Saint Barnabas, other disciples and followers of Prophet Jesus peace be upon him were all Muslims, since they submitted to Allah and obeyed their Master, Prophet Jesus peace be upon him. Prophet Jesus peace be upon him taught his disciples about the creation of the soul of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him before Allah created everything else. And he prophesied the coming of the Messenger of Allah be upon him, of whom the disciples were eager to pray for his early advent.

The ***Gospel of Saint Barnabas*** is available in some Muslim bookshops and public libraries and is downloadable from the Internet. The English translation of the Gospel is published *by Islamic Publications Ltd.,* Lahore, Pakistan, and it is also published by *Begum Aisha Bawany Waqf,* Karachi, Pakistan.

2. HAZRAT MUHAMMAD ﷺ IN THE HOLY BIBLE

Muslims believe that Allah revealed Holy Scriptures through the ***Arch-Angel Gabriel*** (Jibraeel) to Hazrat Isa and to some other Messengers (peace be upon them all), which are now all lost. These holy books were changed, distorted, and abrogated by mankind through the passage of time. Now only the ***HOLY QUR'AN*** exists today in its original form with the protection of Allah, without any addition or deletion whatsoever. The books called **TORAH, PSALMS,** and **GOSPEL** which the Christians and Jews claim as being the original books revealed to the **PROPHETS MOSES, DAVID,** and **JESUS peace be upon them** respectively, are not those books which were revealed to these great Prophets of Allah, as they would have us believe, are lost.

The Holy Bible, consists of two sections made up of many little books: ***THE OLD TESTAMENT*** (Jews follow this) and ***THE NEW TESTAMENT*** (Christians follow this), contains only a few true statements of Allah and His Prophets and the remainder are stories and fictitious accounts written by human hands. One should read the unique scholarly book ***'The Quran, Bible & Science'***, written by ***Dr. Maurice Bucaille*** for further evidences.

It is sufficient here only to give a list of the references that one can read about the advent of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. The following references are to be found in the Old Testament and the New Testament parts of the Bible.

OLD TESTAMENT:

(a) GENESIS 12:2-3;
(b) GENESIS 16:12;
(c) GENESIS 17:4;
(d) GENESIS 21:13, 18 & 21;
(e) GENESIS 25:18;
(f) DEUTRONOMY 4:13;
(g) DEUTRONOMY 18:17-19;
(h) DEUTRONOMY 33:2;
(i) ISAIAH 42: 11-13; ISAIAH 60:7;
(j) SONG OF SOLOMON 5: 10-16.

NEW TESTAMENT

(k) JOHN 1:25;
(l) JOHN 14:14-16, & 25-26;
(m) JOHN 16: 12-14.

3. HAZRAT MUHAMMAD ﷺ IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES

There are some prophecies about the Holy Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him in the Hindu Scriptures, especially in the **PURANAS** (refer to the original Sanskrit text). The one in the **BHAVISHYA PURANA** is the most evident of them all. It gives the name of the country of the Prophet *"MARUSTHALNIVASINAN denizen of the desert"* (Arabia). The actual reference to be found in the Bhavishya Purana *is BHAVISHYA PURANA PARV 3, KHAND 3, ADHYA 3, SHALOK 5-8*. Also refer to the **ATHARVA VEDA** (original Sanskrit text), KANDA 20, SUKTA 127, and MANTRA 1-3.

The following quotation is from the **UPANISHADS**: ***"Allaha-Rasoola-Mohammadarakang" which means "Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah".***

4. PROPHECY IN THE PARSI (ZOROASTRIAN) SCRIPTURE

The Parsi religion has two collections of scriptures namely, the **DASATIR** and the **ZEND AVISTA**. If one looks at the original Phalvi text, **DASATIR NO.14** actually gives the clear prophecy of the advent of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him. The Zend-Avesta, Part 1 by Max Muller, p. 260 has this text**:** ***"Noid to Ahmad dragogeitim" which means, "I declare that Ahmad must come..."***

5. PROPHECY IN THE BHUDDIST SCRIPTURES

The Bhuddist scriptures also contain detailed prophecies of the advent of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. One reference of significance is the one in the **BHUDDIST BOOK 'DIGHA NIKAYA'**: ***"I am not the first Buddha who came on the Earth, nor shall I be the last. In one time another Buddha will arise in the world, a holy one, a supremely enlightened one...He will be known as MAITREYA"*** (from 'The Gospel of Buddha', by Carus, pp. 177-178).

The word ***'Maitreya'*** means ***'Mercy'*** and ***'Merciful'***. The very name of Rasoolullah Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam, '**MUHAMMAD'** means ***'the praised one'***, ***'the glorified one'***. Moreover, Allah declares in His Book, the Holy Qur'an, in Surah Al-Anbiyaa, Verse 107*:* **"We did not send you except as a MERCY unto human beings".** Therefore, the prophecy in the above quotation refers to none other than Rasoolullah Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam, since no other Prophet of Allah was sent for the guidance of the whole of mankind.

Other references about the prophecies relating to the advent of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him can be found in the following texts:

(i) The Gospel of Buddha, by Carus;
(ii) Buddhist and Christian Gospels, by Edmunds;
(iii) Cakkavatti-Sihanda Suttanta -The Mahabhodi Society Translation;

(iv) Muhammad in the Buddhist Scriptures, Volume 1, by U. Ali, 1988, published by Republican Books, Lahore, Pakistan.

One can continue quoting references endlessly from the scriptures of other religions that would only intrigue my dear readers. But it is sufficient enough to quote references from the sources above and afore-mentioned. I would now like to end my discussion of the important topic of Milad Shareef by few concluding remarks as below.

CONCLUSIONS

Throughout history, Allah the Almighty has sent His Prophets peace be upon them all for the guidance of Mankind and all of creation. There is not a single nation on the face of the earth that has not been sent a guide. Today the scriptures of the major religions bear testimony to the prophecy of the advent of the ***Seal of Prophethood,*** **Rasoolullah Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him.** The ***Gospel of Saint Barnabas*** contains the true teachings of **Prophet Jesus peace be upon him**. All the books of the major religions are now lost or distorted but only the **Holy Qur'an,** the Last Testament and Guidance for mankind is intact in its original form, and shall be protected by Allah until the Day of Judgement. All religions emanate from the same one source: **ISLAM**, the religion of all the Prophets. Islam existed from the beginning since creation and will remain so until the end of time. It is more than a religion, it is a complete code of life for all human beings, covering all aspects of life: economic, social, political, legal, religious, cultural, etc.

It has been stated repeatedly in this book that celebrating ***Milad Shareef*** is permitted within the spheres of the Shariah. It has been a practice of Rasoolullah Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam, his Companions, the Muslim scholars, and the Awliyaa.

It is a remembrance of the most importance event in history since it was the day the Seal of Prophecy Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam arrived in Creation. Merely believing in the Prophet peace be upon him is not sufficient. *You must love and respect him profoundly and more than your family, friends and possessions and be prepared to sacrifice everything for the Pleasure of Allah and His Messenger peace be upon him*. **Today the Muslims are divided and what can unite the Ummah is the love and respect for the Messenger peace be upon him, and to follow his Sunnah fully. Also, to win non-Muslims over to Islam, it is necessary to win their hearts over to the love of the Prophet peace be upon him. He must be seen as the Light of the World as the most wonderful and lovely person. We must model our lives according to the teachings and practice of the Holy Prophet peace be upon him, and his Companions may Allah be pleased with them all, based on the Holy Qur'an and the Ahadith. If we celebrate Milad Shareef each year, we can show the Prophet peace be upon him to the world as the Liberator of mankind, friend of the down-trodden, ending all oppression, exploitation, mistreatment of women and all other evils, thus providing the ideal model for our family and society in his Sunnah.**

****

I pay my infinite Hamd (praise) and thanks to Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala, Who has blessed me with this task of writing this book. May Allah accept this humble effort in

the propagation of the true beliefs of Islam and guide all Muslims and non-Muslims on to the Staright Path and unity in Islam. Ameen!
****

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INTRODUCTION TO THE IMAM AHMAD RAZA INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL

The Author established the **IMAM AHMAD RAZA INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL (IARII)** in Bradford in May 1995, under the guidance of *Hazrat Allama Abu Al-Mahmood Nishter,* the former Imam and Khateeb of Jamia Masjid Hanafia, Bradford (UK). This new organisation were established as a response to the religious problems created by some local and national religious organisations in the field of their so-called propagation (Isha'at/Tabligh) of Islam amongst Muslims and non-Muslims. ***Moreover, it was felt necessary to set up IARII as a counter to those people/organisations who distort and spread false beliefs contrary to the teachings of Islam and the doctrines and practices of the AHL AL-SUNNAH WAL JAMA'AT (the Majority Group) in Islam to Muslims and others, such as Qadianis, Bahais, and other groups.*** The **Imam Ahmad Raza Institute International** was formed in memory of the **GREAT MUJADDID (Islamic Revivalist) OF THIS ERA, A'LA HAZRAT IMAM SHAH AHMAD RAZA KHAN BREILVI AL-QADRI (r.a. – born 1856, died 1921),** *and is a minaret of light which guides the Muslim Ummah and is vanishing the darkness of western ideologies, apostasy and atheism.*

Some brief objectives of the ***Imam Ahmad Raza Institute International*** are:

1. **Belief in and propagation of ISLAM,** by following the **HOLY QUR'AN** and the **SUNNAH** of the **HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD** (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam)**.**

2. **LOVE, ASSOCIATION** and **VENERATION** of the ***Holy Prophet Muhammad*** (Sallalahu alaihi wa alihi wa sallam) ***his Family and his Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).***

3. **VENERATION** of the **PROPHETS OF ALLAH,** the **SCHOLARS OF ISLAM** and the **AWLIYAA (saints).**

4. To protect and propagate the **True Beliefs of Islam (Sunni Aqida)** amongst the Muslims and to carry out ***missionary work*** amongst the non-Muslim community.

5. To spread the teachings of Islam as propagated by **Imam Ahmad Raza Breilvi Al-Qadri (r.a.).**

6. To ***conduct research*** in the different areas of the ***Islamic sciences*** and ***to prepare*** and ***publish literature*** on the ***great personalities of Islam*** for the Muslim youth, adults and non-Muslims including *newsletter/magazine, research material, books, etc.*

7. The organisation of ***Islamic Education*** including: study circles, lectures, debates, conferences, camps, Zikr meetings (remembrance of Allah) and other activities.

8. ***To Unite Muslims*** according to the ***Principles of the Holy Qur'an*** and the ***Sunnah*** on the platform of the **AHL AL-SUNNAH WAL JAMA'AH (Sunnis).**

9. Organising those who are willing to strive for the establishment of an ***Islamic Society.***

10. The formation of an ***Inter-faith Dialogue*** to facilitate better understanding of comparative religion and to foster unity and co-operation between members of different religions.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in our work by affiliating himself or herself to the Imam Ahmad Raza Institute International. Contact this address for any correspondence:

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THE AUTHOR

Tariq Mahmood Nishter, the son of **Allama Abul-Mahmood Nishter Sahib** (a renown Alim – scholar), was born in Pakistan in 1967 and settled in the UK with his parents in 1974. He graduated from the University of Hull with honours in Business Management and received an MBA in Business Administration and also the PGCE (FE), a postgraduate teaching qualification, both from the University of Wales. The Author has studied some traditional seminary religious books from his father. Over the years since 1984, the Author has been very active in Islam work, studying Islam and comparative religion, doing Da'wah - talking to non-Muslims about Islam, holding exhibitions at the libraries and Islamic programmes at Mosques, writing Islamic literature, working in various companies, as an Imam/Teacher in some Islamic organisations and also in the British Civil Service in the HMPS.

The Author's other literary works include the following (most of them are yet to be published):

- A Muslim's Guide to Prayer – Salah
- Jesus (peace be upon him) – A Prophet of Islam
- Janazah – Funeral Prayer and Burial in Islam
- Aids - An Islamic Perspective (first published by the Author in 1988)
- Fasting In Islam

The Author has written numerous articles and pamphlets on numerous topics for children and adults, all may be obtained by post from the contact address.